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Welles's own careful statements that the attention of the unwary reader might have been briefly called to these statements ("The Capture and Release of Mason and Slidell", *Galaxy*, May, 1873, XV. 640 ff.; *Lincoln and Seward*, pp. 184 ff.). (2) The second passage is a long series of reflections on the course of New York party politics with extended comments on the history of the Albany Regency (October 7, 1867, III. 223-229). It is too long to quote. It is the sort of subject in which Mr. Welles had been much interested for a great many years and on which he had often expressed himself in editorials long before he was called into the Cabinet. A careful reading of it will show that it was probably written after Johnson's administration. At any rate it appears to the reviewer to be a passage not likely to have been written under the date given.

Mr. Morse's Introduction gives an excellent sketch, not always quite accurate, of Mr. Welles's life. The index, by Mr. D. M. Matteson, is ample without being exhaustive. A few incidental references to Calhoun (I. 376; III. 52, 223) might have been included. The one serious omission noted in the index is the failure to include any direct reference to Charles Sumner; a page has, at this point, fallen out, but the publishers stand ready to supply it. Otherwise, the book is a carefully printed and sumptuous work.

HENRY BARRETT LEARNED.

The Tariff in Our Times. By IDA M. TARBELL. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. Pp. ix, 375.)

AT a time when the perennial tariff question seems to be more prominent than usual this volume, appearing originally as a series of articles in the *American Magazine*, is most opportune, especially as it deals with a phase of the subject which, though of great importance, has never yet received adequate attention. The two leading books previously available covering this general subject were Taussig's *Tariff History of the United States* and Stanwood's *American Tariff Controversies*. The former dealt with the subject primarily from the point of view of economics, studying the economic basis and results of protection; and on that side it still retains the pre-eminently authoritative position it has always held. The latter volume, written with a distinct protectionist bias, was primarily devoted to the political history of the tariff. Though at the same time it discussed to some extent the economic aspects of the question this discussion was unsatisfactory, being superficial, uncritical, and partizan. Miss Tarbell gives her chief attention to still another phase of the problem, one which might well be called the moral history of the tariff. As such it is a distinct and highly desirable addition to the literature of the subject.

The tale begins, as Miss Tarbell takes it up, with that abrupt change in our tariff which came with the Civil War. Under pressure of the

financial difficulties which then beset the government the tariff duties, always the chief source of revenue, were advanced to an unprecedented figure. It was commonly understood that this was only a temporary arrangement. But the manufacturers and other beneficiaries once having enjoyed these advantages and adjusted themselves to the new high level of duties not only clung to them with the greatest tenacity, resisting all attempts at reduction, but even demanded more. As a result the last half-century of our tariff history has witnessed a tendency towards a still higher level of duties finally culminating in the Dingley Tariff of 1897, a movement only interrupted by spasmodic and ineffectual attempts at reduction. The story of how these attempts were blocked by keen political manoeuvring or wire-pulling, how special interests secured more protection, how bargains were made, how schedules were secretly manipulated, how in one way or another through all these years economic principles—yes, even protective principles—were ignored and “public opinion was never embodied in the bills adopted” while private interests and the desires of small groups of producers ruled supreme; in brief the ethics of actual tariff-making constitutes the narrative of this volume. The study, which appears to be based primarily on Congressional debates, tariff hearings, biographies, and contemporary newspapers, has been made with care and thoroughness. The history is vividly told and the human element adds much to its interest. The statesmen, lobbyists, political bosses, and others actively engaged in moulding the tariff schedules pass by in rapid succession. From Morrill, Randall, “Pig-Iron” Kelley, Blaine, Morrison, and all the others of the earlier days down to Whitman, Aldrich, and the group of to-day, the characters are deftly pictured with a trenchant and critical pen, keen to attack any act of selfish interest. It is a sordid and disheartening tale, perhaps a bit overdrawn at times, but one at which the sincere and scientific protectionist will be quite as downcast as anybody else. Certainly one who reads this narrative will be strongly inclined to agree with the author’s own conclusion that “simmered down to its final essence the tariff question as it stands in this country to-day is a question of national morals, a question of the kind of men it is making”.

It is when treating the subject from this ethical standpoint that the author is at her best, and that is excellent. But when the proving of her point involves study of the economic aspects of the tariff the treatment is less satisfactory. The general trend of her conclusions is as a rule economically sound, yet there is lacking that keen analysis of the many factors involved in the problem and the careful limitation of sweeping conclusions which accurate scholarship might demand. Thus, is it not putting the case rather strongly, to say the least, when it is stated that the Morrill tariff bill “was the chief reason the Confederates had for thinking their new government would succeed” (p. 8), or when it is declared that legislation only affects the distribution and not

the production of wealth (p. 52)? Similarly we find signs of that tendency always present in tariff discussions greatly to exaggerate the influence of the tariff, as when the high duty on iron and lumber is alone held responsible for the decline of shipbuilding (p. 62). Again it may be noted that exactly the same line of reasoning used to condemn the tariff because of the conditions in Rhode Island for which it is impliedly held responsible (pp. 336-349) could be used with equal justice if applied to England to prove the damning effects of free trade. Whether the cause of a scientific tariff will be promoted by reasoning of this character is seriously open to question.

But in the case of a book of this type, intended to arouse the public to realization of a serious evil, one is not justified in pushing such criticism further. Laborious attempts at accuracy of detail soon weary the general reader and carefully modified statements blunt his enthusiasm for reform. Especially may such criticism be disregarded since the line of attack on moral grounds here chosen will appeal most quickly to the public ear and, in the present state of sensitiveness on problems of this sort, will most readily secure the desired reaction. For these reasons it is to be hoped that this narrative of the much-neglected ethics of tariff legislation will have the widest circulation.

CHESTER W. WRIGHT.

Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, 1905-1906. The Omaha Tribe. By ALICE C. FLETCHER and FRANCIS LA FLESCHÉ. (Washington: Government Printing Office. 1911. Pp. 672.)

OF all the Indian tribes whose industries, religious rites, or social institutions have been investigated and reported upon by the Bureau of Ethnology, none, perhaps, has received fuller and abler treatment than the Omaha. In the third annual report appeared Dorsey's *Omaha Sociology*, a pioneer effort of great merit, and now in the twenty-seventh comes Fletcher and La Flesché's *Omaha Tribe*, which is virtually an elaboration of, and a supplement to, the earlier work. The value of this book, as of its predecessor, is almost exclusively ethnological, for the history it contains is so meagre and so scattered as to be almost unrecognizable. In one instance, however, history or what pretends to be history, has been fairly dragged in and for no other purpose, apparently, than to enhance the tribal importance of the La Flesché family; this would have been somewhat excusable under the circumstances, had facts been strictly adhered to and the whole story told.

We refer to the biography of Joseph La Flesché, who was a half-breed Ponca, the adopted son of Big Elk the Second, head chief of the Omahas. Our authors, not on their own authority, but on the authority of a single Indian, Wa-je-pa, calmly assert Joseph La Flesché